



Rural Development

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News Release

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USDA AWARDS HOUSING FUNDS TO REGION 3A

Kendallville (#03-11; 1-28-2003): USDA Rural Development announced today that the Region 3A Development & Regional Planning Commission has been awarded a \$71,181 grant through the Housing Preservation Grant Program (HPG). USDA presented a ceremonial check for the funding to Region 3A today at a gathering of officials at Region 3A's office, 217 Fairview Boulevard, Kendallville.

Region 3A plans to use these funds to provide forgivable loans to eligible very low and low income homeowners for housing preservation in the counties of Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben and Whitley.

David Koenig, Executive Director of Region 3A, said, "These funds will be used to finance repairs of owner occupied homes to preserve existing housing stock in rural areas. This will help ensure that decent and affordable single family homes remain for future generations while benefiting the limited income persons who currently own these homes".

The USDA funds will be leveraged with Region 3A matching funds to increase the number of homes that will be repaired. Applicants for these loans will be required to remain owner occupants for five years for projects where the total cost of the repair is less than \$15,000, ten years on projects totaling between \$15,000 and \$40,000, and fifteen years on projects totaling between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

Robert White, USDA Rural Development State Director, commented, "We salute Region 3A for their commitment to affordable rural housing. These funds will pay for repairs that will enable some families to stay in their homes where they feel comfortable and have many fond memories."

USDA's HPG Program provides qualified public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, and other eligible entities grant funds to assist very low and low income homeowners repair and rehabilitate their homes in rural areas, and to assist rental property owners and cooperative housing complexes to repair and rehabilitate their units if they agree to make such units available to low and very low income persons.

Single family home loans, rural rental housing, water and waste water disposal system funding, business and industry loans, and community facility loans and grants are financial resources available from USDA Rural Development. Questions concerning USDA Rural Development services in this area can be directed to USDA Rural Development, 104 East Park Drive, Albion, IN 46701-1437; phone 260-6367682, extension 4.